

Application No.: 10/763,722

Docket No.: 63427-0279

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An architectural covering comprising:  
at least one cord having a free end that is moveable to adjust the position or condition of the architectural covering;  
a cord encapsulating member; and  
a locking member connected to the free end of the cord and moveable with the free end during adjustment of the architectural covering. ~~respect to the cord encapsulating member, the locking member being normally selectively engaged with or disengaged from the cord encapsulating member to prevent inhibit or permit movement, respectively, of the locking member and the cord relative to the cord encapsulating member, and the locking member being selectively releasable from the cord encapsulating member to permit movement of the cord and locking member relative to the encapsulating member.~~
2. (Original) The architectural covering of claim 1, further including a handle moveably disposed on the cord encapsulating member.
3. (Original) The architectural covering of claim 2, wherein the locking member is moveably attached to the handle.
4. (Original) The architectural covering of claim 1, wherein the locking member includes a hand-actuatable extension.
5. (Original) The architectural covering of claim 1, wherein the cord encapsulating member is an elongated wand.
6. (Original) The architectural covering of claim 1, wherein the cord encapsulating member includes a slot.
7. (Original) The architectural covering of claim 6, further including a link connecting the cord to the locking member.

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8. (Original) The architectural covering of claim 7, wherein the link extends through the slot.

9. (Original) The architectural covering of claim 1, wherein the locking member is selectively engaged with or disengaged from an interior surface of the cord encapsulating member.

10. (Original) The architectural covering of claim 1, wherein the locking member is selectively engaged with or disengaged from an exterior surface of the cord encapsulating member.

Claims 11-20 (Cancelled)

21 ( currently amended) An architectural covering having a first fixed rail, a second movable rail, a shade portion, at least one cord extending through the fixed rail and secured to the movable rail for adjusting the position of the movable rail, and a cord actuator and locking system comprising:

a cord encapsulating member; and

a locking member connected to the free end of the cord and moveable with the free end during adjustment of the position of the moveable rail, ~~respect to the cord encapsulating member~~, the locking member being normally selectively engaged with or disengaged from the cord encapsulating member to prevent/inhibit or permit movement, respectively, of the locking member and the cord relative to the cord encapsulating member, and the locking member being selectively releasable from the cord encapsulating member to permit movement of the cord and locking member relative to the encapsulating member.

22. (Original) The covering of claim 21, wherein the cord encapsulating member is pivotably attached to the upper rail.

23. (Original) The covering of claim 21, wherein the cord encapsulating member is integrally formed with the upper rail.

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24. (New) The architectural covering of claim 1 wherein the weight of the covering creates tension in the cord, and said tension creates a force normally maintaining the locking member in movement-preventing engagement with the cord encapsulating member.

25. (New) The architectural covering of claim 21 wherein the weight of the covering creates tension in the cord, and said tension creates a force normally maintaining the locking member in movement-preventing engagement with the cord encapsulating member.